

HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY
FACULTY OF LETTERS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
Syllabus

Title of the Course: IKA 710 Cultural Theory
Instructor: Prof. Dr. SERPIL OPPERMANN
Year and Term: 2012 Fall
Classroom and Hours: Monday, 13:00-17:00 Seminar Room,
Office Hours:

Aim and Content:

This course presents an introduction to the major principles and key concepts of contemporary cultural theory with a focused study of Theory's main objectives. The course aims at developing a critical awareness of major concepts of thought and their contribution to the interpretation of contemporary culture. The course will mainly focus on the new developments after poststructuralist and postmodern approaches to major cultural issues, concepts and themes. It aims to provide the students with a broad view of the contemporary debates on cultural theories.

Course Outline: (Subject to Revision)

- Week I-II-III :** Introduction to "Cultural Theory" (The beginnings: British Cultural Studies paradigms; European continental philosophical traditions)
Jonathan Culler. "Literature and Cultural Studies." (Chpt.3) in *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*. 43-54.
Homi Bhabha. "The Commitment to Theory." (Chpt. 1) in *The Location of Culture*. 28-56.
Graeme Turner. "Texts and Contexts." (Chpt 3) in *British Cultural Studies: An Introduction*.71-108.
Stuart Hall. "Representation, meaning and language." In Stuart Hall.Ed. *Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices*. 15-64
- Week IV-VI:** Post-Structuralist Approaches to Cultural Theory:
Michel Foucault. "Truth and Power." "Panopticism." In *The Foucault Reader*. 51-75. 206-213
Michel Foucault. "Discursive Formations." In *The Archeology of Knowledge*. 31-39
Michael Foucault. "Body/Power." In *Power/Knowledge*. 55-62.
Jean Baudrillard, "The Implosion of Meaning in the Media." "Absolute Advertising, Ground-Zero Advertising." *Simulacra and Simulation*. 79-94.
Roland Barthes, "The Myth Today." *Mythologies*. 117-174
Michel de Certeau, "The Imaginary of the City." De Certeau. *Culture in the Plural* Trans. Luce Giard. 17-27.
Slavoj Žižek, "Multiculturalism, Or, the Cultural Logic of Multinational Capitalism." *New Left Review*. 1. 225 (Sept-Oct. 1997): 28-51.
- Week VII-VIII:** Globalism and Transnationalism
Manfred B. Steger. Chpt 5. "The Cultural Dimension of Globalization," in *Globalization: A very Short Introduction*.
Greta Kapur. "Globalization and Culture: Navigating Void." In *The Cultures of Globalization*. Eds. Fredric Jameson and Masao Miyoshi. 191-217.
Joan Martinez-Alier. "Environmental Justice (Local and Global)." In *The Cultures of Globalization*. 312-326.
David Harvey. "What's Green and What Makes the Environment Go Round?" In *The Cultures of Globalization*. 327-355.

Saskia Sassen. *A Sociology of Globalization.* (students will choose chapters)
Steven Vertovec. *Transnationalism.* 1-77.
Ursula Heise. “From the Blue Planet to Google Earth.” (chpt.1) In Heise. *Sense of Place and Sense of Planet: Environmental Imagination of the Global*
 Chapter 5 “Toxic Bodies, Corporate Poisons: Local Risks and Global Systems.”

Week VIII-XI: Posthumanism, Animal Studies, and Dark Ecologies

“*How We Became Posthuman: Ten Years On An Interview with Katherine Hayles.*” *Paragraph* 33.3 (2010): 318–330.
Katherine Hayles. “Afterword: The Human in the Posthuman.” *Cultural Critique.* 53 (Winter 2003):134-137.
Katherine Hayles “Unfinished Work: From Cyborg to Cognisphere.” *Theory, Culture and Society.* 23. 7-8 (2006):159-166.
Cary Wolfe. “What is Posthumanism?” in *What is Posthumanism.* xi-xxxivx.
Neil Badmington. “Theorizing Posthumanism.” *Cultural Critique.* 55 (Winter 2003):10-27.
Jill Didur. “Re-Embodying Technoscientific Fantasies: Posthumanism, Genetically Modified Foods, and the Colonization of Life.” *Cultural Critique.* 55 (Winter 2003): 98-115.
Laura Bartlett and Thomas B. Byers. “Back to the Future: The Humanist ‘Matrix.’” *Cultural Critique.* 55 (Winter 2003): 28-46.
Ursula Heise. “The Android and the Animal.” *PMLA* 142.2 (March 2009):503-510.
Ursula Heise. “Lost Dogs, Last Birds, and Listed Species: Cultures of Extinction.” *Configurations.* 18 (2010): 49-72.
Stacy Alaimo. “New Materialisms, Old Humanisms, or, Following the Submersible.” *Nora: Nordic Journal of Feminist and Gender Research.* 19.4 (2011): 280-284.
Jodey Castricano. “Introduction: Animal Subjects in a Posthuman World.” in *Animal Subjects: An Ethical Reader in a Posthuman World.* 1-32.
Donna Haraway. “Able Bodies and Companion Species” Chpt. 6 and “Crittercam: Compounding Eyes in Naturecultures.” Chpt. 9 in *When Species Meet.* 161-179. 249-264.
Patricia Yaeger. “Editor’s Column: The Death of Nature and the Apotheosis of Trash; or, Rubbish Ecology.” *PMLA.* 123.2 (March 2008):321-339.
Patricia Yaeger. “Editor’s Column: Sea Trash, Dark Pools, and the Tragedy of the Commons.” *PMLA.* 125.3 (May 2010): 523-545.
Gay Hawkins. “More-Than-Human-Politics: The Case of Plastic Bags.” *Australian Humanities Review.* 46 (May 2009): Online.
 Peters, Katrin. “Plastic Seduction.” Video. Plastic Pollution Coalition Channel. Youtube.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G4JvMwem7mc&list=UUBpIShXI_KHhwUdup_yHoVg&index=7&feature=plcp
 Bennaroch, Jonas. “The Ballad of the Plastic Bag.” Video. Music composed and performed by Nick Haughton. Plastic Pollution Coalition Channel, Youtube.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQdpccDNB_A&list=UUBpIShXI_KHhwUdup_yHoVg&index=5&feature=plcp. 2012.

Week XII-XIII:- Queer Ecologies and Biosemiotics

Satcy Alaimo. “Eluding Capture: The Science, Culture, and Pleasure of Queer Animals.” In *Queer Ecologies: Sex, Nature, Politics, Desire.* Eds. Catriona Mortimer-Sandilands and Bruce Erickson. 51-72.
Andil Gosine. “Non-white Reproduction and Same-Sex Eroticism: Queer Acts against Nature.” In Sandilands and Erickson. 149-172.
Giovanna Di Chiro. “Polluted Politics? Confronting Toxic Discourse, Sex Panic, and Eco-Normativity.” In Sandilands and Erickson. 199-230.

Karen Barad. "Queer Causation and the Ethics of Mattering." In *Queering the Non/Human*. Eds. Noreen Giffney and Myra J. Hird. 311-338.
Wendy Wheeler. "Introduction." Ed. Wheeler. *Biosemiotics: Nature Culture Science Semiosis*. (Living Books About Life).
Jesper Hoffmeyer. "Semiotic Freedom: An Emerging Force." In *Biosemiotics*.
Timo Maran. "Towards an integrated methodology of ecosemiotics: The concept of nature-text." *Sign System Studies*. 35 (2007): 269-294.

Week XIV: Exam

Method of Instruction : lectures and student presentations/discussions

Requirements: Attendance is compulsory. More than 12 hours of absence will result in F1. Class participation is extremely important as the whole course will proceed in the form of a series of workshops in which each student will be expected to know, analyze, discuss and make a critique of the assigned texts .

The students are expected to study the assigned texts and offer critical approaches informed by their ideas in their papers. Each student is obliged to read every text listed and is expected to come to class with questions and critical insights concerning the material to be covered. Participating in discussions is a MUST for at least 10 minutes of individual contributions. An intensive reading and thinking are required in this course. To help the students an introductory survey of theories will be gradually unfolded during my own lectures in the beginning. Additional introductory reading, however, might be necessary. There will be Two term papers prepared and delivered in class in addition to 10 minute presentations on the material each week. Each student will have to choose two texts from the theorists mentioned and prepare a critical reading of these texts.

Students should be able to:

1. read texts with a critical eye
2. compare and contrast ideas and schools of thought
3. identify major figures and developmental trends in CULTURAL Theory
4. write upper-level research papers

Method of Assessment: In grading oral and written work 20% will be cut for language mistakes. The aim here is to encourage the students to have close attention to their style.

The final assesment will be made on the following basis:

Exam	50%
Major Term Papers	40%
Class presentations on critical concepts and/or articles	10%

Reading Material.

1. John Storey. Ed. *What is Cultural Studies: A Reader*. London: Arnold, 1996.
2. Graeme Turner. *British Cultural Studies: An Introduction*. London: Routledge, 2003.
3. John Storey. *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction*. (3rd Edition). London: 2001
4. Philip Smith. *Cultural Theory: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2001
5. Jean Baudrillard. *Simulacra and Simulation*. Trans. Sheila Faria Glaser. Ann Arbor: The U of Michigan P, 2004.
6. Slavoj Žižek. Ed. *Mapping Ideology*. London: Verso, 1994.
7. Paul Rabinow. Ed. *The Foucault Reader*. London: Penguin, 1984.
8. Colin Gordon. Ed. *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972-1977 By Michel Foucault*. New York: Pantheon, 1980.
9. Michel de Certeau. *Culture in the Plural*. Ed. Luce Giard. Trans. Tom Conley. Minneapolis: The U of Minnesota P, 1997.
10. Homi K. Bhabha. *The Location of Culture*. New York, 1994.

11. Anthony Elliott. Ed. *The Blackwell reader in Contemporary Social Theory*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1999.
12. Pierre Felix Guattari. *The Guattari Reader*. Ed. Gary Genesko. Oxford: Blackwell, 1996.
13. Stuart Hall and Paul du Gay. Eds. *Questions of Cultural Identity*. London: Sage, 2007.
14. Robyn R. Warhol and Diane Price herndl. Eds. *Feminisms: An Anthology of Literary Theory and Criticism*. New Jersey: Rutgers UP, 1991.
15. Ursula K. Heise. *Sense of Place and Sense of Planet: Environmental Imagination of the Global*. New York: Oxford UP, 2008
16. Jonathan Culler. *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford UP, 1997
17. Edgar, Andrew, and Peter Sedgwick. *Cultural Theory: The Key Concepts*. 2nd edition. New York: Routledge, 2007.
18. Hall, Stuart. *Representation: Cultural Representations and Signifying Practices*. London: Sage, 1997.
19. Jodey Castricano. Ed. *Animal Subjects: An Ethical Reader in a Posthuman World*. Waterloo, Ontario: Wilfrid Laurier UP, 2008.
20. Steven vertpvec. *Transnationalism*. New York: Routledge, 2009.
21. Manfred B. Steger. *Globalization: A very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2003.
22. Saskia Sassen. *A Sociology of Globalization*. New York: WW. Norton & Co., 2007.
23. Fredric Jameson and Masao Miyoshi. Eds. *The Cultures of Globalization*. Durham: Duke UP, 2004.
24. Cary Wolfe. *What is Posthumanism?* Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 2010.
25. Noreen Giffney and Myra J. Hird. *Queering the Non/Human*. Burlington: Ashgate P, 2008.
26. Catriona Mortimer-Sandilands and Bruce Erickson. Eds. *Queer Ecologies: Sex, Natue, Politics, Desire*. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2010.
27. Donna Haraway. *When Species Meet*. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 2008.
28. Wendy Wheeler. Ed. *Biosemiotics: Nature Culture Science Semiosis*. (Living Books About Life) (ONLINE).
29. The Posthumanities Hub: <http://www.tema.liu.se/tema-g/Posthuman?l=en>
30. The Anthropocene: <http://www.anthropocene.info/en/home>
31. Trans-Corporeality: <http://larvalsubjects.wordpress.com/2012/05/24/stacy-alaimo-porous-bodies-and-trans-corporeality/>